

## Federal beach-repair project begins on Long Beach Island

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HARVEY CEDARS-Trucks lined up on Hudson Avenue on Thursday to finally deliver tons of sand for the long-anticipated beach replenishment project.

About 16,000 cubic yards of sand will be distributed between Salem and Cumberland Avenues, historically a section of the island's beaches hardest hit by erosion.

Trucks, carrying 25 tons of sand each, entered the beach through Hudson Avenue atop heavy rubber "Alternamats," which helped evenly distribute the trucks' weight as they entered the beach.

Five to 10 dump trucks will make a combined 40 trips a day to the borough from Sahara Sand in West Creek.

Sam Davison, project manager for Environmental Engineering and Construction, Inc., the Maryland company hired to implement the project, said the project could be completed in three weeks in the best-case scenario. The project would take three months, in the worst-case scenario, if beset with inclement weather and other unforeseen setbacks, Davison said.

The sand dumped Thursday was almost identical in color and texture to the beach sand already there. That's because Sahara Sand uses a hydraulic dredge that washes out the reddish-brown clay materials, said Scott Fritzinger, resident engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"You generally want sand that is compatible with whatever is already there," said Fritzinger, who worked on a similar project in Cape May last winter.

The job represents only a tiny fraction of the overall LBI Project, which aims to keep the island's beaches healthy for 50 years.

The total cost is \$159 million.

"While this is a small phase, it could lead to much bigger things," U.S. Rep. Jim Saxton, R-3rd, said in a statement. "It may help in acquiring funding in the 2007 budget because the LBI project would be considered as a continuing beach repair project. This is a multi-year project, and I need to look ahead to find ways to keep the funding flowing. The Army Corps of Engineers is already preparing its 2007 budget, and I'd like to see the LBI

project stay on schedule."

The project plans call for a 17-mile-long berm, or mound, 125 feet wide and as high as 30 feet at the crest, on LBI.

Upon completion, periodic renewal work would be required.

The cost of this part of the total LBI Project is about \$500,000, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

For this phase, the federal government is paying \$292,500; New Jersey, \$157,500; the borough and Ocean County combined, \$39,375.

Millions of tons of offshore sand will be pumped onto the island's beaches during the next phase of the project, Saxton said.

"I am anticipating the corps will start pumping sand in 2006," Saxton said. "That work will be significantly larger in scope than this contract."

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